

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 26 and ending at page 12, line 31, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In addition to the nonresorbable reversible gel composed of a linear random copolymer of N-isopropyl [meth-]acrylamide and [meth-]acrylic acid described in this invention, a biodegradable (resorbable) copolymer exhibiting similar gelation properties is obtained by grafting of the oligo [meth-]acrylamide derivative side chains on a biodegradable polymer of, e.g., polyaminoacids, poly(phosphazenes), poly(caprolactone), polypeptides, polysaccharides and combinations thereof. ~~As described above, in order to form a gel, a sufficient number of oligo [meth-]acrylamide derivative side chains must be included in the resulting biodegradable graft copolymers such that the bioactivity of the biological molecules of the backbone is not preserved and therefore the graft copolymers as described do not include polymer/protein bioconjugates.~~ Preferred oligo [meth-]acrylamide derivative side chains include N-alkyl substituted [meth-]acrylamide derivatives, linear random copolymer of [meth-]acrylamide derivative and hydrophylic comonomer, and combinations thereof. Techniques of grafting of oligo-N-isopropyl[meth]acrylamide side chains on a nonbiodegradable pH-sensitive homopolymer are described (Chen and Hoffman). The technique(s) of Chen and Hoffman were used herein to graft the oligo-N-isopropyl[meth]acrylamide side chains on an alternative biodegradable polymers such as polyaminoacids, poly(phosphazenes), poly(caprolactone), polypeptides, polysaccharides and combinations thereof. The first step of the synthesis is either the free radical homopolymerization or the random copolymerization of the oligo-N-isopropyl[meth-]acrylamide side chains by free radical polymerization using an aminoterminated chain transfer agent, for example 2-aminoethanethiol hydrochloride. The next step is the coupling of the amino-terminated macromer to the carboxyl moieties of the biodegradable polymer using the activation reagent, e.g., dicyclohexyl carbodiimide. Other biodegradable polymers such as poly(phosphazenes) poly(caprolactone), polypeptides, polysaccharides and combinations thereof may also be grafted with the oligo-N-isopropyl[meth-]acrylamide side chains using similar synthetic techniques.--